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U. S. Department of Agriculture

WINTER CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTIVATED CURRANT AND GOOSEBERRY BUSH

PLANTS	HABIT OF GROWTH	HEIGHT OF MATURE BUSH	BRANCHING	SPINES OR PRICKLES	BARK	TWIGS	P
Cultivated or European black currant	Upright, few branches, stocky	3 to 6 feet	Alternate	None	Old bark dark brown, often with corky spots; young bark lighter colored, not shredding.	Round stocky, without ridges	St ch col
American black currant	" "	" "	"	"	" "	Ridged stems, not round, smaller than in European black currant	
Cultivated red or white currants	" "	3 to 5 feet	"	"	Old bark darker than above; young bark often light colored, not shredding	Not round, often angular and shriveled	
Yellow flowering currants	Upright, many branches, stocky	6 to 8 feet	"	"	Old bark dark, often with corky spots; young bark light colored, not shredding	Twigs rounded	
Cultivated gooseberry	Inclined to be sprawling;	2 to 4 feet	"	Stout nodal spines,	Light colored, not shredding	Often angular	



WINTER CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTIVATED CURRANT AND GOOSEBERRY BUSHES AND SHRUBBY PLANTS WITH WHICH THEY MAY BE CONFUSED

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture,  
Blister Rust Control Office,  
604 County Court House,  
Asheville, N. C.

PLANTS	HABIT OF GROWTH	HEIGHT OF MATURE BUSH	BRANCHING	SPINES OR PRICKLES	BARK	TWIGS	PITH	TERMINAL BUDS	LEAF SCARS	RETENTION OF FRUIT IN WINTER	CHARACTERISTIC ODOR OF TWIG WHEN CRUSHED	DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS
Cultivated or European black currant	Upright, few branches, stocky	3 to 6 feet	Alternate	None	Old bark dark brown, often with corky spots; young bark lighter colored, not shredding.	Round stocky, without ridges	Small, cream-colored	Large (1/8 inch long), light-colored, plump	Alternate "U" or crescent-shaped; bundle traces in threes, plainly visible	Berries usually not retained	Strong odor resembling bed bugs	Strong, bed-bug like odor. Round light-colored twigs. Plump terminal buds. Non-shredding bark.
American black currant	" "	" "	"	"	" "	Ridged stems, not round, smaller or than in European black currant	" "	Smaller than above, but otherwise similar	" "	" "	None or very slight	Odor mild or absent. Ridges extending down twig on either side of bud. Non-shredding bark.
Cultivated red or white currants	" "	3 to 5 feet	"	"	Old bark darker than above; young bark often light colored, not shredding	Not round, often angular and shriveled	" "	Small, often clustered (1/16 in. long), dark colored	" "	Not retained	None	Small, dark clustered terminal buds. No odor. Young branches darker colored than cultivated black currant, and often shriveled and angular. Bark not shredding.
Yellow flowering currants	Upright, many branches, stocky	6 to 8 feet	"	"	Old bark dark, often with corky spots; young bark light colored, not shredding	Twigs rounded	" "	Medium (1/16 to 1/8 inch long), light colored, plump	" "	"	None	Tall bush. American elm-like growth, many branches, light colored young growth. No odor. Bark not shredding.
Cultivated gooseberry	Inclined to be sprawling; fine branches	2 to 4 feet	"	Stout nodal spines, often in threes; prickles along branches	Light colored, not shredding	Often angular	" "	Quite large (1/8 in. long); scales plainly visible	Narrower leaf scars than in currants	"	"	Nodal spines, stout, often in threes. Small pith to distinguish it from raspberry. Fruit not retained in winter, as in case with barberry. Inner bark and wood not yellow.
Spiraea	Upright, many slender branches, often drooping like American elm	2 to 8 feet	"	None	Light brown to reddish-brown, shredding	Slender, round, angled from stem, giving it a zigzag appearance	-	Small	Only one bundle trace	Fruit dry and inconspicuous not a berry, retained in winter	"	Very slender branches. Bark shredding.
Raspberry or blackberry	Straggling shrub, stocky, few branches, cane-like	Usually under 6 feet.	"	Prickles varying in thickness, but usually stout, scattered along stem, not grouped at nodes, often recurved	Light brown to tan colored, sometimes reddish and greenish, shredding, thin	Stocky, usually ridged and angular, not round	Large brown, irregular in cross section	Medium; lower buds covered by petiole base	-	Not retained	"	Large, irregularly shaped pith.
Barberry	Upright, often drooping like American elm; many slender branches	Some species 2 to 3 ft., others 6 to 8 feet	"	Sharp, nodal slender, long spines, usually dark colored, single or in groups	Gray outer; inner bark and wood yellowish	Slender ridged	Very small	Small and inconspicuous	Leaves often retained all winter	Retained, dark red, shriveled, in racemes on some species, single on others	Slight odor and taste of licorice root	Red berries retained in winter. Slender branches. Slender, long reddish dark spines. Yellow inner bark and wood.
Snowberry	Upright	2 to 4 feet	Opposite	None	Clay colored, shredding	Round, stocky	Very small	Medium	-	Dry berries in small clusters, retained in winter	None	Opposite branching. White berries.
Hinok Bark	Upright, bushy with many small branches	4 to 6 feet	Alternate	None	Drab, brownish, shredding in long strips	Ridged, small	Small	Medium	-	Dry, inconspicuous fruit, often retained in winter, in clusters	None	Bark shredding profusely.







